

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-04 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06

AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 NEA-10 OIC-04 SS-15 RSR-01 /162 W
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P R 272326 Z JUN 73

FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8607

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2412

E. O. 11652: ADS: DECON: JUNE 27, 1974

TAGS: TSPA, PFOR, UN, UR, CA, FR

SUBJ: OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE (OSC): DISCUSSION OF
REGISTRATION

1. SUMMARY: OSC DEVOTED TWO SITTINGS TO INFORMAL EXPLORATION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES RELATING TO REGISTRATION CONVENTION: MARKING PROVISION AND REVIEW CLAUSE. MANY DELS WANTED BOTH; FRANCE TOOK THIS POSITION IN GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT, REITERATING EARLIER VIEW THAT SOME KIND OF MARKING PROVISION WAS ESSENTIAL. AUSTRIANS INFORMALLY CIRCULATED THREE ALTERNATIVE MARKING PROPOSALS AND REVIEW CLAUSE AMALGAMATING PROVISIONS IN SEABEDS ARMS CONTROL TREATY AND LIABILITY CONVENTION. CANADA AND USSR SOUNDED US OUT ON PERMISSIVE MARKING PROVISION.

2. DETAILS: WHEN NO DELEGATION VOLUNTEERED TO MAKE GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT, OSC AT JUNE 26 AM SITTING PROCEEDED DIRECTLY TO INFORMAL CONSIDERATION OF UNRESOLVED ISSUES RELATING TO CONVENTION ON REGISTRATION OF SPACE OBJECTS. SAME TOPIC PURSUED AT PM SITTING. ISSUES QUICKLY NARROWED TO REVIEW CLAUSE AND MARKING, WHICH WERE TAKEN UP IN THAT ORDER.
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3. ON REVIEW CLAUSE, US (REIS) ASKED OTHER DELS TO EXPLAIN THEIR VIEWS OF WHAT SUCH PROVISION WOULD BE INTENDED TO ACCOMPLISH. US WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT AUTOMATICALLY CONVENING CONFERENCE TO DO WHAT OSC COULD DO JUST AS WELL.

ON OTHER HAND, IF GOOD REASONS WERE ADDUCED FOR INCLUDING REVIEW CLAUSE, WE COULD TAKE POSITIVE ATTITUDE.

4. NUMBER OF DELS LED BY CANADA SOUGHT TO JUSTIFY REVIEW PROVISION ON VARIOUS GROUNDS, E. G., CONSIDER HOW CONVENTION HAD OPERATED AFTER REASONABLE INTERVAL; APPRAISE CONTENT OF CONVENTION IN LIGHT OF POSSIBLE NEW TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS (SOME SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING MARKING IN THIS CONNECTION); MAKE REGISTRATION CONVENTION PARALLEL TO CLOSELY INTER-RELATED LIABILITY CONVENTION. MUCH SUPPORT EVIDENT FOR SOME FORM OF REVIEW CLAUSE.

5. LEADING OFF PM DISCUSSION ON MARKING, REIS REVIEWED US POSITION, EMPHASIZING THAT WE SIMPLY COULD NOT SEE UTILITY OF ANY CONCEIVABLE MARKING FOR IDENTIFICATION ASSISTANCE. HE ADDED THAT OUR JUDGMENT ON TECHNICAL- ECONOMIC INFEASIBILITY HAD NOT CHANGED AND NO OTHERS HAD ADDUCED EVIDENCE TO JUSTIFY DIFFERENT CONCLUSION.

6. FRANCE (CHARVET) REJOINED THAT FRENCH TECHNICAL EXPERTS HAD CONSIDERED QUESTION FOR SOME TIME AND NOW TOOK DIFFERING VIEW FROM US AS TO DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY INVOLVED IN MARKING. CHARVET, WHO IS QUAI DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, DID NOT GIVE ANY DETAILS. HE ADDED THAT FRANCE CONSIDERED THAT " CARTESIAN LOGIC" DEMANDED MARKING TO CONFERE NATIONALITY ON MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION WHICH OTHERWISE WOULD LACK IT. (FRENCH REP REITERATED THIS POSITION IN JUNE 27 GENERAL DEBATE, ADDING THAT REVIEW PROVISION WAS ALSO ESSENTIAL). NUMEROUS OTHER DELS SUPPORTED INCLUSION OF MARKING PROVISIONS; CANADA (MILLER) REINVOKED ITS " REASONABLE" PROPOSAL TO LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE: " THE STATE OF REGISTRY SHALL MARK, IN THE MOST APPROPRIATE AND FEASIBLE WAY, EACH SPACE OBJECT IT LAUNCHES INTO EARTH ORBIT OR BEYOND WITH THE INTERNATIONAL DESIGNATION OR REGISTRATION NUMBER." ONLY JAPAN BESIDES US EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS REGARDING MARKING; JAPAN NOTED ITS NEW AWARENESS OF COMPLEXITY OF QUESTION. CONFIDENTIAL

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7. AT END OF JUNE 26 INFORMAL SESSION CHAIRMAN DESIGNATED HIS AUSTRIAN COLLEAGUE (TUERK) TO DRAFT " COMPROMISE" MARKING PROVISION FOR OSC' S FURTHER CONSIDERATION. AT INFORMAL SESSION JUNE 27 PM TUERK CIRCULATED THREE PROPOSALS, READING AS FOLLOWS:

(A) "(1) THE STATE OF REGISTRY SHOULD MARK EACH SPACE OBJECT IT LAUNCHES INTO EARTH ORBIT OR BEYOND WITH THE INTERNATIONAL DESIGNATOR OR REGISTRATION NUMBER IN CASES WHERE IT REGARDS THIS AS FEASIBLE AND IN A MANNER IT REGARDS AS APPROPRIATE. (2) WHEN FURNISHING INFORMATION ON A SPACE OBJECT TO THE SECRETARY- GENERAL PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III(1), THE STATE OF REGISTRY SHALL INFORM HIM WHETHER THE OBJECT HAS BEEN MARKED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH(1)."

(B) " THE STATE OF REGISTRY SHALL MARK, IN THE MOST APPROPRIATE
AND FEASIBLE WAY, ANY SPACE OBJECT CAPABLE OF WITHSTANDING
RE- ENTRY INTO THE ATMOSPHERE."

(C) " THE STATE O

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